



*Chapman's Pond, East Haddam, Connecticut.*

Photo by Steve Gephard.

The Nature Conservancy  
Connecticut Chapter  
Science Tower  
PO Box MMM  
Wesleyan Station  
Middletown, Connecticut 06457  
Tel. (203) 344-0716

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #1300  
Hartford, CT

## CHAPMAN'S POND AND ONION MOUNTAIN SAVED

The trustees are pleased to announce the acquisition of 307 acres at Chapman's Pond, East Haddam. (See article, page 2.) The project is ecologically one of the most important the Chapter has undertaken, and the price tag—\$700,000 for acquisition and stewardship—is the largest in our history. At this writing we are \$69,000 short.

We have sought contributions of five or six figures and have endeavored to do so without slighting those who wish to contribute smaller amounts. Indeed, many members, without being asked, have nonetheless donated smaller sums, much to the benefit of the project, and we are extremely grateful.

Concurrently we have worked to protect other critical lands. Notable among them is Onion Mountain, a 900-foot-high basaltic ridge in Canton. Connecticut scientists have determined that the area is a very diverse biologic habitat, one of five known stations for certain unusual flora. By the time you read this, we will have acquired title at 6% of its six-figure fair market value—a prudent bargain.

*continued on page 2*



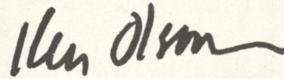


continued from page 1

Chapman's Pond (307 acres) and Onion Mountain (100 acres) are just two of many important projects supported by your dues and other contributions. To continue our no-nonsense program of land conservation, we must continue to raise operating dollars. The trustees have asked that I remind members that such contributions are as critical as donations to specific projects. Our Spring appeal letter, which you recently received, asks your help. Unlike your dues, which are split 50/50 between the national office and the Chapter, every penny raised in response to the letter will go to the Chapter.

The Conservancy achieves tangible and permanent results. We hope you feel, as we do, that your dues and other contributions continue to be well invested. Land in its natural state is a permanent gift to all living people and to those who will inherit this earth from us.

Please respond to our Spring appeal letter. For every dollar you give, we will save \$16 worth of land.



W. Kent Olson  
Executive Director

## CHAPTER AWARDED \$460,000 FOR CHAPMAN'S POND

On April 1 the Conservancy took title to 307 acres at Chapman's Pond, East Haddam. Pledges of \$300,000 from the Connecticut River Gateway Commission and \$160,000 from the Soil Conservation Service (USDA), and contributions totaling \$171,000 from individuals have been made toward the \$700,000 project. Said Executive Director Ken Olson, "Based on our strong showing so far, the national office authorized the purchase loan, stipulating that the Chapter raise the outstanding amount, now \$69,000."

The Conservancy has—so far—avoided a broad-based campaign for Chapman's, focusing instead on institutional sources and a small number of private donors able to give in five or six figures. That approach was necessary because the Chapter was under severe time constraints, namely a short option period and the specter of imminent despoliation of the area.

"We wanted to complete the project as quickly and efficiently as possible," stated Chairman Peter Cooper, "and to reserve our membership-wide campaigns for the solicitation of critical operating funds, without which we simply cannot keep open the doors at Chapter headquarters. Last year's operating budget, run modestly in the black, enabled us to carry on the protracted and sensitive negotiations for Chapman's Pond, to secure an option for Onion Mountain, and to complete eleven other projects. We need an equally solid operating base for 1982."

The protection of Chapman's Pond is a joint undertaking of TNC and the East Haddam Land Trust, which has acquired several tracts in the area. In addition to help from the Gateway Commission and the Soil Conservation Service, assistance was provided by the Citizens Council of the Middlesex Soil Conservation District, the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, and the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Governor William O'Neill, Senator Christopher Dodd, Senator Lowell Weicker, Representative Sam Gejdenson, and Representative Stewart McKinney joined in bi-partisan support of the regionally important project.

"Our elected leaders helped forge a remarkable alliance of politicians, bureaucrats, private citizens, and non-profit organizations," said Olson. "Without their help our chances for success would have been greatly diminished."

Citizens of the state owe the leaders a debt of gratitude for helping direct toward Connecticut the federal money needed for this significant conservation achievement. Given the lean times in Washington, this is no small accomplishment. Furthermore, State Conservationist Phil Christensen, with his professional staff in Storrs and Haddam, did a magnificent job under equally austere circumstances.

Olson emphasized that the hard work is not over. "We've performed a rescue—saving the place from development—and now we own the critical acreage. In order to assemble the full preserve, the Conservancy must protect several other tracts surrounding the pond. In addition, the Conservancy and the East Haddam Land Trust must manage the land so that the biotic diversity and scenic amenity remain high. And for the Conservancy, it must extinguish its fundraising obligation without draining resources from operational needs."

"Raising \$631,000 in under four months is a remarkable accomplishment, a credit to our benefactors," said Cooper. "It would be ideal if one or a few private individuals stepped forward to contribute all or some of the remaining debt at Chapman's. We are counting on the bulk of our membership to donate to the operating base through the Spring appeal letter, but we also hope that our members can ready themselves in case we should have to ask their help later with the Chapman's project."

The preserve at Chapman's Pond will be named in honor of Cynthia B. Carlson, resident of the Connecticut River Valley and spirited conservationist. A dedication ceremony will be held on June 13, at the Gelston House, near the Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam. Special guests include William Blair, President of The Nature Conservancy, Governor William O'Neill, and members of the Congressional delegation. A charter cruise of the lower Connecticut River is scheduled, so passengers can view several TNC preserves. (See invitation, page 4.) You are *urged* to attend this most important event.





*Suzi Wilkins, director of the Land Trust Service Bureau, holding a copy of The Connecticut Land Trust Handbook, sent recently to the 80 state trusts. Copies are available for \$6.00 (postage paid) from the Chapter office.*

## SPRING WALK AT LORD'S COVE

Help us welcome in the spring as we hike Lord's Cove Preserve on May 15th. The preserve comprises 150 acres of oak and hemlock uplands, floodplain forest and cattail marsh along scenic Lord's Creek, with views across the Connecticut River. The hike will last approximately two hours (meeting at 10:00 a.m.), so bring a picnic lunch.

Please call the office (344-0716) to let us know how many are coming.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 70 to Route 156. Go a little less than 3½ miles and turn left onto Ely's Ferry Road. Follow to its end at the river (approximately 2 miles) and park in the field on the left hand side.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Since we last published a list of memorial contributions in July 1981, gifts have been gratefully received in memory of the following individuals:

Lucy Adams  
Bill Aitken  
Richard S. Anderson  
Louis Bregy  
Bella Brogle  
Williston B. Case  
William Chapman  
Edward Christ  
Borden Helmer  
Helen Ferris Hooker  
Muriel Johnson

Mrs. J. Kaplan  
Ellen Wunder Knight  
Harriet McCormick  
Ralph E. Olson  
Heber Pelkey  
Dr. Joseph Pereira  
Hubert E. Preston  
Fay Rotenberg  
Jacob Skopp  
Ruth Thomas  
Geraldine Vellarreal

## TAINE MT. ROAD CASE IS LOST

The Connecticut Chapter learned on March 12 that the Court had ruled in favor of developer Fiske Ventres in concluding that Taine Mt. Road is an existing public highway.

Judge Vasington found that the Conservancy had "failed to sustain its burden of persuasion that Taine Mt. Road (had) been abandoned." As a result, Ventres is allowed to continue improving the road through the preserve. After thoughtful deliberation, the Chapter has decided against an appeal.

## AMERICAN MAIZE SUPPORTS CONSERVATION

American Maize-Products Company of Stamford has joined as a Corporate Associate of TNC. "We're very appreciative," said Trustee Alexander Gardner. "American Maize's contribution will help sustain our operating base, without which we could not carry out the objectives of the Conservancy. We thank American Maize for its vote of confidence, and we welcome this public-spirited company to the growing list of corporate supporters." A firm becomes a Corporate Associate by contributing at least \$1000 annually.

## WILDLIFE ART EXHIBITION

The Connecticut Audubon Society will stage a major exhibition of bird carving and wildlife art on May 14-16 at the historic Burr Homestead in Fairfield, Connecticut. Over forty national award winning carvers and artists from the United States and Canada will be present, including Julie Zickefoose, Preservation Planner for the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

The doors will be open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Burr Homestead. For information call the Connecticut Audubon Society, 203/259-6305.



*Win Bullard discovers work of a pileated woodpecker during walk at Milo Light Preserve in Montville.*

## MEMBERS VISIT MILO LIGHT

Some two dozen friends of the Conservancy joined together for a two-hour hike at Milo Light Preserve in Montville on March 6th.

The day, threatening rain or snow, remained clear enough for preserve chairman John Dufrat to lead the group on a wonderful excursion to the far reaches of this 338-acre preserve.

The natural area boasts rugged topography with 200-foot range in relief. The highs have rock outcrop summits while the lows are red maple swamps drained by clear streams. The slopes are almost entirely mixed hardwoods dominated by oak with scattered pockets of hemlock.



Sunday, June 13, 1982  
East Haddam, Connecticut

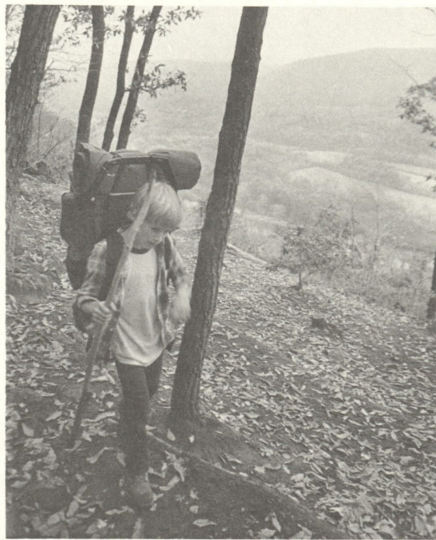
A black and white photograph showing a calm body of water, likely a lake or a wide river. In the foreground, a dense field of large, rounded-leafed plants, possibly water hyacinths, fills the lower half of the frame. The water extends to the middle ground, where a small, dark structure or boat is visible on the left side. The background is dominated by a steep, densely forested hillside that rises from the water's edge. The sky is a uniform, light gray, suggesting an overcast day. The overall composition is horizontal, with the plants in the foreground leading the eye towards the water and the distant shore.

Please mail to: The Nature Conservancy  
Connecticut Chapter  
P.O. Box MMM, Wesleyan Station  
Middletown, CT 06457



# The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter

## 1981 Annual Report



Hiker at St. Johns Ledges.

Photo by George Bellerose.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

The following data is abstracted from our financial statement as of December 31, 1981:

#### ASSETS

Cash in Banks	\$ 20,990
Savings Certificates	134,447
Funds at National Office	45,847

FUND BALANCE \$201,284

Cash in Banks is the locally held portion of the Chapter's operating capital. Savings certificates include \$47,484 in local preserve accounts, \$31,000 in a restricted stewardship account, and \$55,963 in unrestricted funds. Co-mingled funds held at the National Office include \$24,840 in operating capital and \$21,007 in an investment fund.

The financial information above presents fairly the assets and fund balance arising from cash transactions of The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter as of December 31, 1981, and the revenues collected and expenditures paid during the year then ended. The report of our auditors, Schulz and Vecchitto, is available for your inspection at our offices.

National Office: 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, Virginia 22209

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

In 1981 the Connecticut Chapter completed eleven acquisitions, secured two options, identified eleven threatened habitats, continued the volunteer stewardship of scores of sanctuaries, began a guidebook to 20 preserves, conducted scientific research and ecological inventories on selected sites, established a Corporate Advisory Board of senior business executives, completed a handbook for land trusts, made gifts of land to several qualified private organizations, launched the largest fundraising campaign in our history, accepted a generous testamentary gift to establish revolving fund for acquisition, added to the Chapter's permanent funds, and began working on several new conservation priorities for 1982.

In addition, we re-examined some operating practices and our organizational structure. On January 1, 1981, the Chapter assumed a more formal relationship with the national and regional offices of the Conservancy, making us eligible for increased financial support without sacrificing the traditional volunteerism that contributes so well to our effectiveness. The staff balanced the operating budget, running the Chapter modestly in the black, insuring that your dues and other contributions continue to yield the best possible results at the lowest possible cost. Membership grew to nearly 5000, the number of Acorns (\$100/year donors) increased to 154, and two companies joined 22 other Connecticut-based corporations as Corporate Associates.

As I leave the volunteer chairmanship of the Chapter, I am struck by the notion that the Connecticut Chapter is truly a working partnership. General members, Acorns, volunteers, corporate sponsors and our staff have joined in the important business of protecting natural diversity in our state, one of the most beautiful in the nation. The quality of that partnership is evident across Connecticut, in 67 sanctuaries that form a permanent and growing legacy for us and our descendants.

I urge each of you to continue your membership, to give additionally when you can, to recruit your friends—and most of all to derive great satisfaction in your participation in one of the most effective conservation organizations in America.

#### Board of Trustees

Peter B. Cooper, *Chairman*, Bethany  
 Peter Neill, *Vice Chairman*, Stony Creek  
 John A. Blum, *Treasurer*, North Colebrook  
 Alexander S. Gardner, *Secretary*, New Canaan  
 Russell Brenneman, Glastonbury  
 Martha Briscoe, Lakeville  
 Mrs. Harvey Gaylord, Niantic  
 Richard H. Goodwin, New London  
 James Pepe, Abington  
 William Ross, Riverside  
 Thomas Siccama, East Haven  
 Mrs. Bruce Smart, Fairfield  
 Alden Taylor, Farmington

#### Staff

W. Kent Olson, *Executive Director*  
 Susan D. Cooley, *Associate Director*  
 Polly Wildermuth, *Office Manager and Editor*  
 Marjorie L. Eaton, *Secretary*  
 Suzanne Wilkins, *Land Trust Service Bureau, Director*

Peter B. Cooper  
 Chairman

#### Corporate Advisory Board

Donald W. Davis, *Chairman*, The Stanley Works, New Britain  
 Bartlett Barnes, *Chairman*, Bristol Press Publishing Company, Bristol  
 Frank J. Coyle, *Chairman*, Putnam Trust Company, Greenwich  
 John H. Filer, *Chairman*, Aetna Life and Casualty Company, Hartford  
 Worth Loomis, *President*, Dexter Corporation, Windsor Locks  
 S. Bruce Smart, Jr., *Chairman*, Continental Group, Stamford  
 Francis M. White, *Chairman*, Colonial Bancorp, Waterbury

Chapter Office: P.O. Box MMM, Wesleyan Station, Middletown, Connecticut 06457



## PRESERVE PLANNING

Identification of the State's most critical habitats logically precedes our efforts to acquire and protect them. In 1981, the Chapter took a significant step forward by initiating a formal program in preserve selection and design.

To identify the species and community types most in need of protection, Julie Zickefoose worked with top scientists across the state. Using that information, she identified 11 sites in Connecticut in greatest need of protection. She evaluated each site as a prospective Conservancy preserve, paying special attention to the ecological boundaries, the minimum acreage and configuration of land necessary to preserve the area's ecological quality. These reports became the basis for the Chapter's current priority acquisition list.

## 1981 ACQUISITION

Major strides were made in land acquisition in 1981. Foremost among them was the option secured on Chapman's Pond on the Connecticut River in East Haddam, one of the most important protects ever undertaken by the Connecticut Chapter. To protect this unique habitat, the Chapter launched a \$700,000 fundraising campaign.

In Fall 1981, the Chapter obtained an option for 100-acre Onion Mountain in Canton, a basaltic ridge 900 feet in elevation. Through the generosity of the owner, Marvin H. Stocking, we will purchase the entire ridgetop at a favorable price.

The Chapter was also the grateful recipient in 1981 of numerous gifts of land, expanding six of our established preserves. Dorothy Walker of Salisbury gave 20 acres for addition to Patricia Winter Woodland, now 675 acres. A ten-acre gift from Richard Cooper and seven acres from Stanley Cooper enlarged Lord's Cove Preserve in Lyme to 165 acres. Burnham Brook Preserve in East Haddam and Byram River Gorge in Greenwich came under increased

protection with the donations of scenic easements: 38 acres from the John Kashanskis and four acres from Imre and Thomas Cholnoky, respectively. The remaining one-half undivided interest in Iron Mountain Reservation in Kent was donated by Mrs. Walter E. Irving. A portion of undivided interest in Turtle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Old Saybrook and Essex, was likewise given to the Chapter by Mrs. Chester Bowles.

Additional gifts of land were received from Booth Hemingway (1.9 acres) and Sadie Sporn (6.2 acres) of Stamford, the estate of Joan M. Gildersleeve, Greenwich (8.6 acres) and Dorothy B. Foote of Killingworth (23 acres). These properties were acquired for eventual transfer to qualified local land trusts.

## SERVICE BUREAU

The Land Trust Service Bureau in 1981 held regional workshops on local land preservation, established a low-cost group insurance program through the Conservancy at a substantial savings to the trusts, provided counseling services to land trusts, and performed an in-depth study of conservation easements, a valuable protection tool.

Utilizing the Conservancy's expertise and resources, the Bureau facilitated the acquisition of locally significant open space land.

A handbook on trust formation and operation, parcel acquisition and management, and community relations was drafted in 1981 for publication in early 1982.



*Associate Director Susan Cooley at Taine Mt.*

*Photo by George Bellerose.*

## STEWARDSHIP: A PERMANENT RESPONSIBILITY

Protection of natural lands does not end with their acquisition. Vigilant, informed, and permanent stewardship is vital. This requires the participation of a volunteer stewardship committee for each of the Chapter's 65 preserves. In 1981, committee members fundraised, published newsletters and brochures, performed routine maintenance, organized legal defenses of preserves, and—for heavily visited areas—hired wardens to patrol the preserves.

The Student Internship Program, in its seventh year, helped document conservation easements, prepared natural resource inventories for Higby Mountain and Bluff Head Preserves, and conducted research on a rare reptile species.

While protection of the biota is always our first priority, The Nature Conservancy makes an effort to keep our preserves available to the public for passive recreation. The Chapter organized two hikes in 1981, to Rock Spring and Devil's Den, and a canoe trip to Chapman's Pond. The Chapter also secured a \$14,700 grant from Kennecott Corporation for production of a guide to Connecticut preserves, scheduled for publication in Fall 1982.